

Message Text

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72

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 SP-03 AID-20 EB-11 NSC-07 RSC-01

CIEP-02 TRSE-00 SS-20 STR-08 OMB-01 CEA-02 CIAE-00

COME-00 FRB-02 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-07 OPIC-12 LAB-06

SIL-01 AGR-20 SWF-02 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 L-03 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 AEC-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 INT-08 SAM-01

SCI-06 DRC-01 /242 W

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R 051700Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY DAKAR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6426

INFO AMEMBASSY MONROVIA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY BANJUL UNN

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EO 11652N/A

TAGS: EAGE EIND EMIN PINT MCAP SG

SUBJ: PRESIDENT SENGHOR'S INDEPENDENCE DAY SPEECH

MONROVIA FOR AGATT

REF: A) DAKAR 1735 B) DAKAR 628

1. SUMMARY: IN ANNUAL INDEPENDENCE DAY ADDRESS, PRESIDENT SENGHOR ANNOUNCED TIMETABLE FOR LARGE INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS, REPEATED REMARKS MADE IN ADDRESS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL REPORTED REF A, DISCUSSED RELEASE OF POLITICAL PRISONERS, AND BRIEFLY SINGALED HIS INTENT STRENGTHEN ARMED FORCES. HE ALSO ANNOUNCED RISE IN PRICES PAID PEASANTS FOR PEANUTS AND COTTON AND SAID RATE OF INFLATION IN DAKAR HAD BEEN 11 PERCENT OVER FIRST ELEVEN MONTHS 1973, HE PREDICTED

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CONTINUED PRICE RISES IN 1974. END SUMMARY.

2. PRESIDENT SENGHOR SAID INDUSTRIAL FREE TRADE ZONE FOR EXPORT INDUSTRIES WILL BEGIN FUNCTION BEFORE END 1975. LARGE PETROLEUM REFINERY AT CAYAR WILL BEGIN FUNCTION IN 1976 WITH PETROCHEMICAL COMPLEX BUILT IMMEDIATELY AFTER. WORK ON DAKAR-MARINE SUPER-TANKER REPAIR FACILITY WILL BEGIN IN MID-1975 AND WILL TAKE FOUR YEARS.

3. IN HIS SPEECH, PRESIDENT ANNOUNCED GOS WOULD RAISE PRICE PAID TO PEANUT FARMERS TO 35 CFA/KILO FOR 1974-75 CROP. PRICE IS CURRENTLY 25.5 CFA PLUS 4 CFA "EXCEPTIONAL REBATE" FOR PEASANTS WHO HAVE PAID ALL DEBTS. PRICE PAID FOR COTTON ALSO RAISED FROM 30 CFA TO 40 CFA FOR NEXT CROP.

4. ON POLITICAL SIDE, SENGHOR GAVE RATIONALE ONCE AGAIN FOR RELEASE OF PRISONERS. STRESSED NO CONDITIONS IMPOSED ON HIS GRANTING OF GRACE, AND WARNED "CLANDESTINE" OPPOSITION NOT TAKE HIS ACTIONS AS SIGN OF WEAKNESS.

5. PRESIDENT ALSO ANNOUNCED, IN CONTEXT OF SENEGALESE ARMY'S RESPONSIBILITIES ON CASAMANCE FRONTIER AND WITH REGARD ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UN MIDDLE EAST FORCE, THAT TERM OF MILITARY SERVICE WOULD BE PROLONGED SIX MONTHS AND ARMAMENTS OF ARMED FORCES STRENGTHENED.

6. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE PRESIDENT SENGHOR IS OVERSTATING CASE, ESPECIALLY WITH REGARD CAYAR REFINERY, BY IMPLYING THAT HE HAS LOCATED FINANCING FOR HIS THREE TOP PRIORITY INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS AND THEIR REALIZATION ASSURED WITHIN DEFINITE TIMETABLE.

7. WE NOTE PRICE RISES FOR PEANUTS IN RESPONSE PEASANT DISCONTENT AND INCREASED SMUGGLING NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES PAYING HIGHER PRICES. GOS HOPES INCREASE PRODUCTION AND CUT SMUGGLING TO RECOUP MOST OF INCREASED COST. AS PRICE GOS RECEIVES FROM LOCAL CRUSHERS NEAR 100 CFA/KILO, GOS WILL STILL HAVE LARGE SURPLUS. OIL CRUSHERS BELIEVE 35 CFA PRICE NOT SUFFICIENTLY HIGH TO SOLVE PRODUCTION AND SMUGGLING PROBLEMS.

8. REFERENCE IN HIS TALK TO CLANDESTINE OPPOSITION MAY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUGGEST SENGHOR HAS NO INTENT TO RECONCILE PRO-COMMUNIST PAI REMNATS WITH HIS GOVT. IF NEW ARMS FOR ARMY INDEED PROVIDED, WOULD GIVE HIM POLITICAL BOOST THAT QUARTER AND QUELL LONGSTANDING BUT MUTED DISGRUNTLEMENT OF ARMY OFFICERS WITH PRESENT OUTDATED EQUIPMENT.
AGGREY

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